

OTM DATA SHEET
COMMUNITY MINISTRY PORTFOLIO

BASIC INFORMATION

Name of Church: St. James of Jerusalem

Diocese: Long Island

Address: 220 West Penn Street, Long Beach, NY 11561

Phone: 516-432-1080

Email: stjameslbny@gmail.com

Position title: Part-time Priest (in residence)

Current Status: Filled, but anticipating the pastor's planned retirement

Receiving Names until: Until Filled

Order of Ministry: Episcopal Priest

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA): 30

Number of Weekend Worship Services: 1 weekly

Number of Weekday Worship Services: 3/week (online, lay-led)

Number of Other Worship Services per Month varies

COMPENSATION, HOUSING, AND BENEFITS

Note: Full New Rector Compensation Package Submitted Separately

Current Annual Compensation:

Cash Stipend: \$30,000

plus

Housing/Rectory: \$ Housing Supplied

plus

Utilities (if separate from housing figure): \$ NA

plus

SECA: \$ Representing reimbursement of: Full/Half/Other

Compensation Available for New Position: \$ 30,000 Cash Stipend

Negotiable?

Pension Plan: NA

Healthcare Option: NA

Dental Option: NA

Housing Equity Allowance in Budget? NA

Amount: \$

Vacation Time: See *New Rector Compensation Package*

Travel & Related Expenses (incl. Continuing Education): \$1,000

Sabbatical Provision: NA

Other Professional Account: NA

Professional Budget: \$

INCUMBENT HISTORY & CHURCH DAY SCHOOLS

Name: Reverend Susan K. Bock

Position Title: Priest in Charge

Date Begun: July 1, 2019

Date Ended: tba

Church School: N/A

Day School: N/A

NARRATIVE

In our baptism we promise to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, seeking and serving Christ in all persons. You are invited here to reflect on your ministry by responding to all of the following questions (max 250 words each). You may answer in more than one language, if appropriate.

- 1. Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognized as one of success and fulfillment.**

On Easter Sunday 2024, we had a full church – a ten-year record for attendance, and a quarter of whom were children. This is illustrative of our greatest success in our recent history – the engagement of numerous young families with children. They come to church, participate, and have brought great joy and fulfillment to the entire congregation. After worship on Easter, the garden was filled with families enjoying an Easter Egg Hunt, a tradition we started just two years ago.

- 2. How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?**

In preparing St. James for the future, we will be steadfast in our devotion to the teachings of Jesus Christ and to the mission of the church, while continuing to focus on gathering & community; encouraging participation and volunteerism; continuing to offer online alternatives to in-person worship and fellowship; proactively welcoming people who may feel out of touch with or out of place at more traditional churches; finding ways to make the liturgy and gospel accessible to and relevant for present times and going forward, and by becoming even more of a resource for everyone in our community, for example by offering our space for more AA meetings, yoga classes, art groups, etc.

We are grateful for the gifts of courage, creativity, faith we will need for embracing an uncharted future and we pray for continued inspiration and success.

- 3. Please provide 4–6 words (separated by commas) describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.**

Enthusiasm, positivity, open-mindedness, environmentalism, communicative, child-friendly, empathetic.

- 4. Describe your liturgical style and practice. If your community provides more than one type of worship service please describe all.**

St James utilizes Episcopal liturgy complemented by materials such as-poems, passages from respected theologians, African American Spirituals, drama and choral readings; Rite II Eucharist from the Book of Common Prayer, with wide flexibility as allowed by the rubrics; outdoor worship and baptisms during summer months; Morning Prayer, led by a lay worship team, when the priest is away; and online, lay-led, morning prayer group three times a week.

5. How do you practice incorporating others into ministry?

St. James incorporates others into ministry through prompt personal welcome and integration into every aspect of our life together, including participation in lay roles at worship, social events, and outreach projects; by seeking out and responding to new members' ideas and concerns; by meeting outdoors in the garden; by offering opportunities to be involved in church activities and projects; and by encouraging participation in the services by all.

6. As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing?

We care for our spiritually by celebrating liturgy that is "pastoral," that is, relevant to our lives as they are; we care for our emotional wellbeing by staying aware of personal, regional and global events and acknowledging issues, especially negative developments, listening to and validating our feelings, and supporting each other as we live through them; and our physical wellbeing through our Bishop's Committee, which works hard to safeguard and efficiently utilize the physical assets of the parish.

7. How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

We host 8-10 Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings every week; we make our welcome to the LGBTQ community explicit and widely known; we provide a garden, a spiritual space, for our wider community whose members use it for rest, healing, gathering, exercise; by offering baptisms, weddings; by keeping our columbarium welcoming for the wider community, whose members visit, and place tokens of remembrance for, their loved ones buried there; we collect food for local food pantries; we celebrate our sanitation workers every year, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

8. Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

St. James has ties with the Long Beach community, and several other congregations in the neighborhood including the devout non-denominational New Life Church of Christ, various Synagogues, and the Lutheran and Catholic churches. There is a spirit of mutual respect and recognition interwoven in our quiet but strong relationships. With Temple Emanu-El, we have participated in Holocaust Remembrance Day; a Peace Rally following the October 2023 tragedy in Gaza; a December Service of Light.

9. Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

This Fragile Earth, our Island Home is a series of webinars designed to help people learn about the climate crisis – it causes, solutions, and actions to take. Our aim is to empower folks to act to reverse global warming. While our primary audience is the greater Long Beach community, we invite anybody, anywhere to join us. Contact Bishop’s Committee member Coty Keller, see contact information at the end of this document.

10. What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

We are fiscally responsible and conservative, asking all members to make a pledge of financial support each year. About half our members pledge, a quarter give regularly without making a pledge, and another quarter – some of whom are truly poor – do not participate in financial support but do give in other ways.

St. James’ leadership and members are also sincerely dedicated to stewardship of our buildings, grounds and the earth as a whole.

11. What is your worshipping community’s experience of conflict and how have you addressed it?

When our current priest, Pastor Susan, arrived in 2019, some members of the church responded with divisive behavior, like calling for secret meetings and encouraging dissent. We quickly sought – and received – help from our diocesan leadership through intervention by our bishop, and meetings with Canon Woodley. After about a year, a handful of folks left, and we began to heal.

Since then, we have been very deliberate about dealing with conflict openly and with kindness, examining issues, validating feelings, avoiding “triangulation,” and working toward compromise or moving on in peace.

12. What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Pastor Susan initiated changes at St. James, which caused some bumps in the road at first, but ultimately it went very well. We learned that we as a faith community can endure and navigate change and come out stronger on the other side.

We learned that teaching about change, and about principles and practice of liturgy and music, paves the way for smoother changes, and, also, that a healthy community can more readily accept, process, and even initiate change.

CONNECTIONS

Worshipping Community's Website: <https://www.stjameslb.org/>

Social Media Link: <https://www.facebook.com/StJamesLBNY>

Language Significantly Represented: English

REFERENCES

Bishop

The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano

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516-248-4800 x131

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Reverend Canon Claire Woodley

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Wardens and other contacts:

Elizabeth (Betsy) Hill, Warden

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